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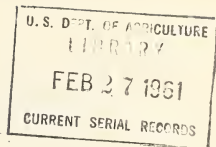
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE OF 1959

(PRELIMINARY)



Fewer hired farm workers, on the average, worked more days in 1959 than in 1958 to produce our Nation's food and fiber. Not counting short-term workers who worked less than 25 days at farm wage work during the year, about 2.2 million persons earned an average of \$829 in 138 days working on farms in 1959. Regular farm workers, those employed 150 days or more, numbered 800,000 but they accounted for more than 67 percent of the total man days of hired farm work. Average daily wages for farm work held steady at \$6 while average earnings for nonfarm work by regular farm workers rose slightly to \$9 per day. Combined wage earnings in 1959 amounted to \$1,038, up from \$961 in 1958. (See table on reverse side.)

About one in 5 of the 2.2 million workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1959 were migratory workers. These workers averaged \$6 per day worked at farm work and had combined average annual earnings of \$911, compared to an annual average for nonmigratory workers of \$1,063.

About 2 in 5 hired workers doing 25 days or more farm wage work received items in addition to cash wages. Workers not receiving perquisites reported daily earnings about a dollar higher than those who received perquisites. No attempt was made to determine the cash value of perquisites.

Manual laborers worked fewer days and earned a lower average daily wage than workers who reported working mainly with machinery or livestock, jobs which generally require greater skill. About 16 percent of male workers were doing farm wage work for the first time in 1959, but nearly one in 5 had worked on farms for wages for 20 years or more.

Table 1.--Average number of days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work for farm wage workers, by duration of farm wage work, migratory status, sex, perquisites, and type of labor, 1959

Selected items, by duration of farm wage work 1959	Number of workers	Farm and nonfarm						Farm						Nonfarm					
		Days			Wages earned			Days			Wages earned			Days			Wages earned		
		worked			Per			worked			Per			worked			Per		
		Thou.	No.	Dol.	Per	day	1/	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Per	day	1/	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Per	day	1/
					year	worked					year	worked					year	worked	
Total																			
		3,577	119	814	6.85			88		524	5.95			31		290		9.40	
25 days or more		2,166	161	1,038	6.45			138		829	6.00			23		209		9.00	
Migratory		346	143	911	6.40			119		710	6.00			24		201		8.40	
Nonmigratory		1,819	165	1,063	6.45			142		852	6.00			23		211		9.10	
Male		1,590	183	1,237	6.75			157		980	6.25			26		257		9.75	
Female		476	85	333	3.90			73		292	4.00			12		41		3.30	
Perquisites		916	189	1,120	5.90			168		922	5.50			21		198		9.25	
No perquisites		1,249	141	977	6.95			116		760	6.55			25		217		8.85	
Hand labor		1,228	122	649	5.30			103		526	5.10			19		123		0.60	
With machines		586	186	1,369	7.35			157		1,080	6.85			29		289		9.95	
With livestock		351	258	1,847	7.15			228		1,467	6.40			30		380		12.75	
Less than 25 days		1,412	54	471	8.70			12		57	4.90			42		414		9.75	
Migratory		131	62	513	8.15			13		81	6.10			49		432		8.70	
Nonmigratory		1,281	53	466	8.80			11		54	4.75			42		412		9.90	
Male		880	66	671	10.10			11		60	5.35			55		611		11.05	
Female		531	33	138	4.15			12		51	4.20			21		87		4.15	
Perquisites		239	62	597	9.60			12		68	5.55			50		529		10.60	
No perquisites		1,173	52	445	8.50			11		55	4.75			41		390		9.55	

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

